THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (d) The information relating to holidays in European countries is not centrally maintained. So far as Central Government offices in India are concerned, based on the recommendations of the Third Central Pay Commission it was decided that no substitute holiday should be allowed if any festival holiday happens to fall on a day of weekly off or in the event of more than one festival falling on the same day.

(c) and (d) In view of the decision taken, based on the recommendations of the Third Central Pay Commission, no such proposal is under consideration at present.

Millennium Development Goals, 2000

†987. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study reports prepared by the Action Aid with regard to Millennium Development Goals, 2000 in which it has been stated that the poor are still poor and the condition of providing the basic necessities has become worse;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that existing economic and industrial policy are the main cause for not achieving the target set in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of a study report brought out by Action Aid International regarding the Millennium Development Goals, 2000 entitled. 'Whose Freedom? Millennium Development Goals as if people matter'. The report does not explicitly suggest that the poor are still poor and the condition of providing the basic necessities has become worse in India. The proportion of people living below poverty line declined from 36 per cent in 1993-94 to 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000. Similarly, the access of people to basic necessities has improved over time. The percentage of households getting enough food

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

throughout the year increased from 81.1 per cent in 1983 to 96.2 per cent in 1999-2000 in the rural areas, while for the urban areas this increase was from 93.3 per cent in 1983 to 98.6 per cent in 1999-2000. The percentage of households living in 'pucca/permanent' houses increased from 41.6 per cent in 1991 to 51.8 per cent in 2001. Similarly, those having access to electricity at home increased from 42.4 per cent in 1991 to 55.8 per cent in 2001. the percentage of households having access to safe drinking water (drinking water supplied from a tap, hand pump/tube well) increased from 62.3 per cent in 1991 to 78 per cent in 2001. The proportion of households having toilet/bathroom facilities increased from 23.7 per cent in 1991 to 36.1 per cent in 2001.

(c) and (d) The targets for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been fixed for the year 2015. Consequently, it is not possible to make observations about the achievement of the MDG targets.

BIMARU States

†988. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are called BIMARU States of the country;

(b) if not, facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rate of economic progress of these States has been found lower than the average of progress at national level; and

(d) if so, the rate of annual progress of the said BIMARU States as well as annual national progress rate recorded during last one decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The term BIMARU States is not part of official nomenclature. It is used as an abridged form of reference to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) During the period 1994-95 to 2003-04, the annual growth rate of total Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of all these four States

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.